

## **I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 39 and 100-103 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

38. (Four Times Amended) A method of screening for modulators of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a cell expressing a TLR-4 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:98 or SEQ ID NO:99;
- b) providing to the cell lipopolysaccharide sufficient to induce a lipopolysaccharide mediated response;
- c) measuring a lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide;
- d) contacting the TLR-4 polypeptide with a putative modulator;
- e) assaying for a change in the lipopolysaccharide mediated response; and
- f) comparing the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide obtained in steps c) and e) above

wherein a difference in the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses indicates that the putative modulator is a modulator of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response.